

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

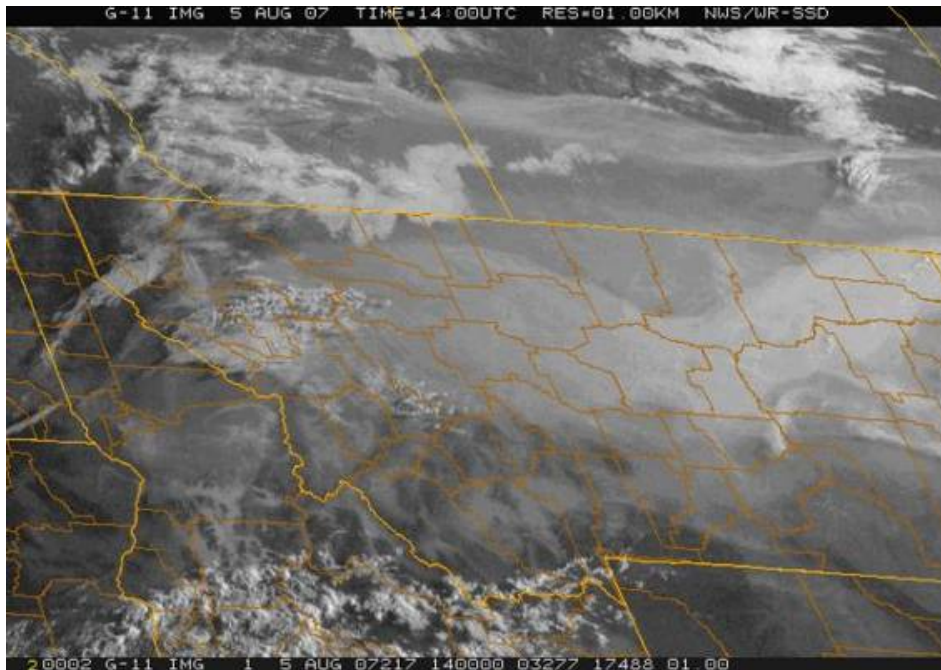
August 05 2007

10:00 AM Sunday

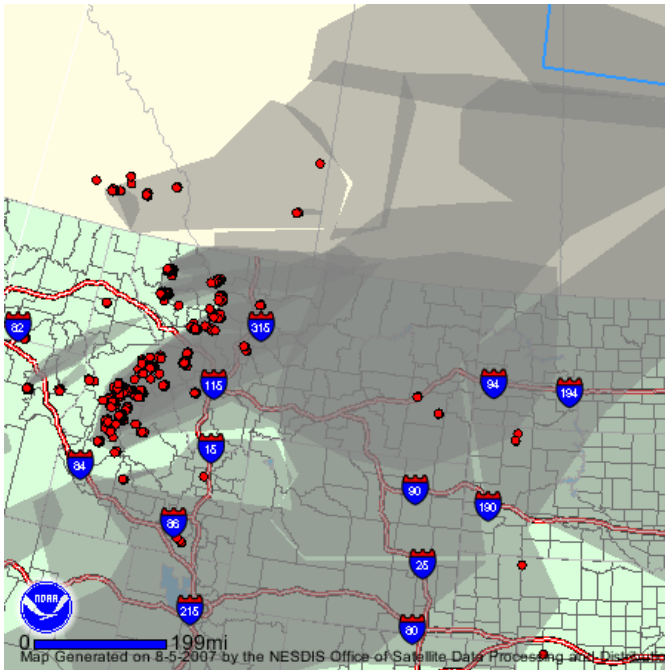
Current Situation

Smoke from the fires in Idaho and Western Montana is heavily impacting the southeast corner of the state this morning. Miles City is at [UNHEALTHY](#) and Baker is at [UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE](#) as the smoke has settled in there since late last night. In western Montana most reporting stations have improved to [MODERATE](#) this morning as night time inversions have kept the smoke aloft in most areas. Smoke levels in Seeley Lake are expected to be [UNHEALTHY](#) or worse this morning. Areas under the plume aloft will see sharply higher impacts later this morning. See the forecast below. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

Morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind(the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage)



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

This satellite photo from last evening at 8 PM shows the plumes of smoke from the active fires in Idaho and Montana last night. This is what produced the plume of smoke stretching across the state today.



Real time particulate information is currently available in most of the larger urban areas from several different sources including: DEQ run PM-10 BAMS and PM2.5 BAMS, NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

Updated 10 AM August 05, 2007

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

| | |
|--|---|
| HAZARDOUS | |
| VERY UNHEALTHY | |
| UNHEALTHY | Miles City Vis(8) |
| UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS | Baker Vis(8) |
| MODERATE | Whitefish T8 Kalispell T8 Polson T8 Ronan T8 Missoula T24 Butte T8 Choteau T8 Helena T8 Dillon Vis(1) |

T1(x) One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values)
 T8(x) Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values)
 T24 24 hour average TEOM or BAM value
 Vis(x) Visibility value(number of hours)
 Vis(am/pm) Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations
 (est) estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.

Forecast

Smoke levels will rise temporarily in many areas today as the smoke produced yesterday mixes down to the surface. Winds will be shifting to the southwest over the western part of the state as a trough deepens near the coast. This will move the plumes north and will

clear out some of the areas that saw a lot of smoke yesterday. The northern Flathead, the Seeley-Swan Valley, and the Front Range areas should see a lot of smoke today. Smoke will continue to move into the Bitterroot Valley and the Butte and Dillon areas as well. Fire activity levels will likely be high again today. Residents near active fires need to pay close attention to conditions in their area and use the [visibility guidelines](#) to guide their activity decisions as the situation changes.

[John Coefield](#)

Meteorologist

Montana Department of Environmental Quality